GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:36
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013
FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Testing Laboratories (FTLs) set up in the country,State/UT-wise;

(b) whether these laboratories meet the international standards and the demand of the industry;

(c) if not, the measures taken by the Government to upgrade these laboratories;

(d) the details of laboratories likely to be upgraded/modernized in each State, State/ UT-wise; and

(e) the total funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years till date?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e) There are 140 Food Testing Laboratories in the country for testing food as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Authority Act, 2006 and Rules/ Regulations made thereunder. Out of these 68 laboratories have National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) accreditation. State Governments have set up 72 food testing laboratories. These laboratories are equipped to check the quality of food articles as per standards prescribed under the FSS Rules/Regulations for various parameters. State-wise details are given in the annexure. Besides, there are four Referral Food Laboratories under the Act, which work as appellate laboratories for the purpose of analysis of appeal samples of food lifted by the Food Safety Officers of the States/ UTs. and local bodies and the imported food samples.

The two laboratories viz.
(i) Food Research and Standardization Laboratory, Ghaziabad and
(ii) Referral Food Laboratory, Calcutta are under the administrative control of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the other two viz. Central Food Laboratory (CFL), Pune and Referral Food Laboratory (RFL), CFTRI, Mysore are under the administrative control of the Government of Maharashtra and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India respectively.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI) commissioned a gap analysis study for up gradation of 50 food laboratories under the Central and State Governments. The study has indicated that there is an urgent need to upgrade the infrastructure, strengthen staffing & training inputs and put in place more reliable laboratory management and operational procedures. Gap analysis reports of these laboratories have been sent to the States/UTs concerned. Modernization/upgradation of food testing lab is a continuous process. The State Governments sanction funds for their laboratories based on the budgetary provision. Details of the grant-in-aid granted by FSSAI to CFL, Pune and RFL, CFTRI, Mysore and the expenditure incurred are as under: -

Sl.No	Financial year	RFL, Mysore (fund sanctioned)	Expenditure Incurred(Based on the Utilization Certificate)	RFL, Pune (fund sanctioned)	Expenditure incurred(Based on the Utilization Certificate)
1.	2009-10	50 lakhs	50 lakhs	40 lakhs	40 lakhs
2.	2010-11	50 lakhs	50 lakhs	40 lakhs	40 lakhs

3.	2011-12	40 lakhs	40 lakhs	40 lakhs 40 lakhs
	Total	1.4 crore	1.4 crore	1.2 crore 1.2 crore